One Snowshoe
presents

Kodomo wa Wakatte Agenai

by Tajima Rettou

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Gender: Female

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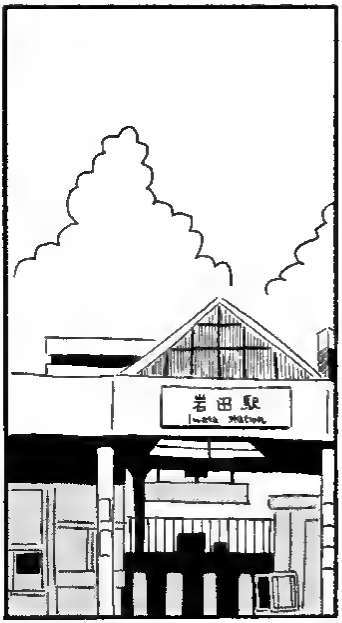
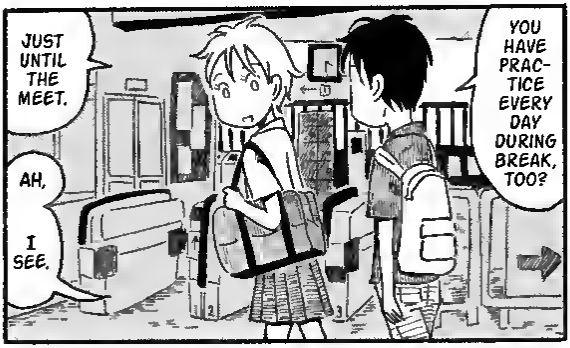
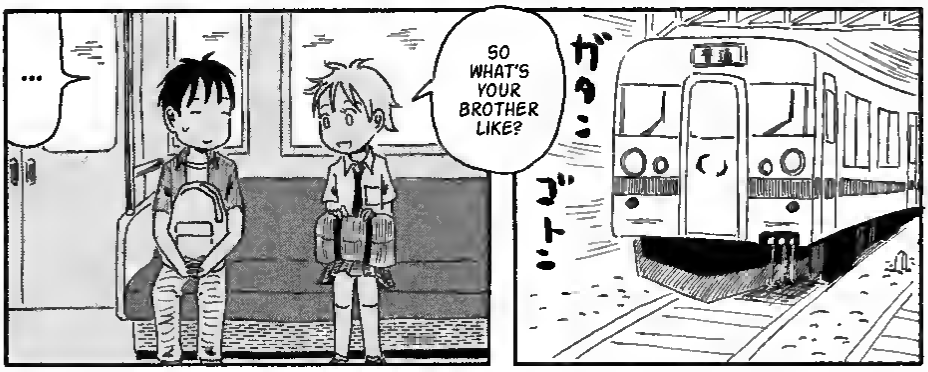
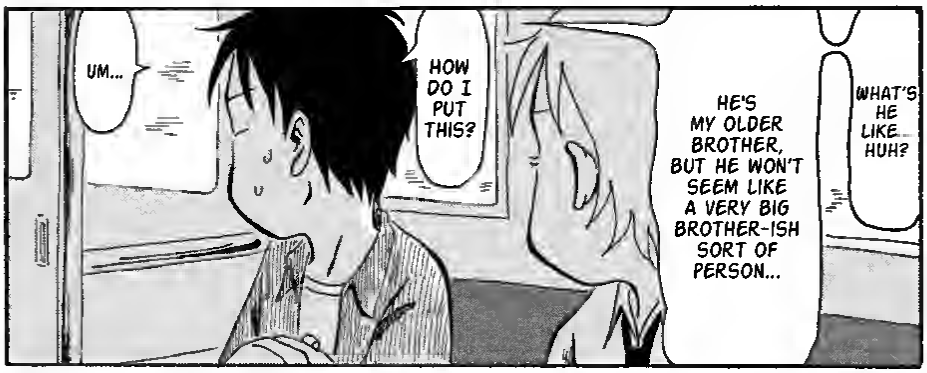
3.
THE DETECTIVE IS IN THE SHOPPING DISTRICT

MOJI-KUN!

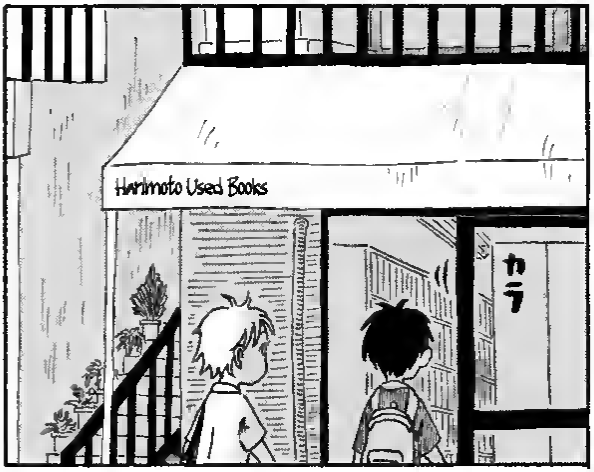

若田駅

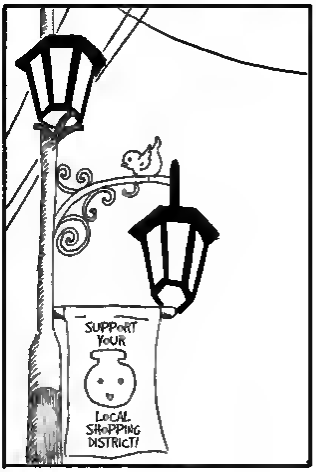

YOU HAVE PRAC-TICE EVERY DAY DURING BREAK, TOO?
JUST UNTIL THE MEET.
AH, I SEE.

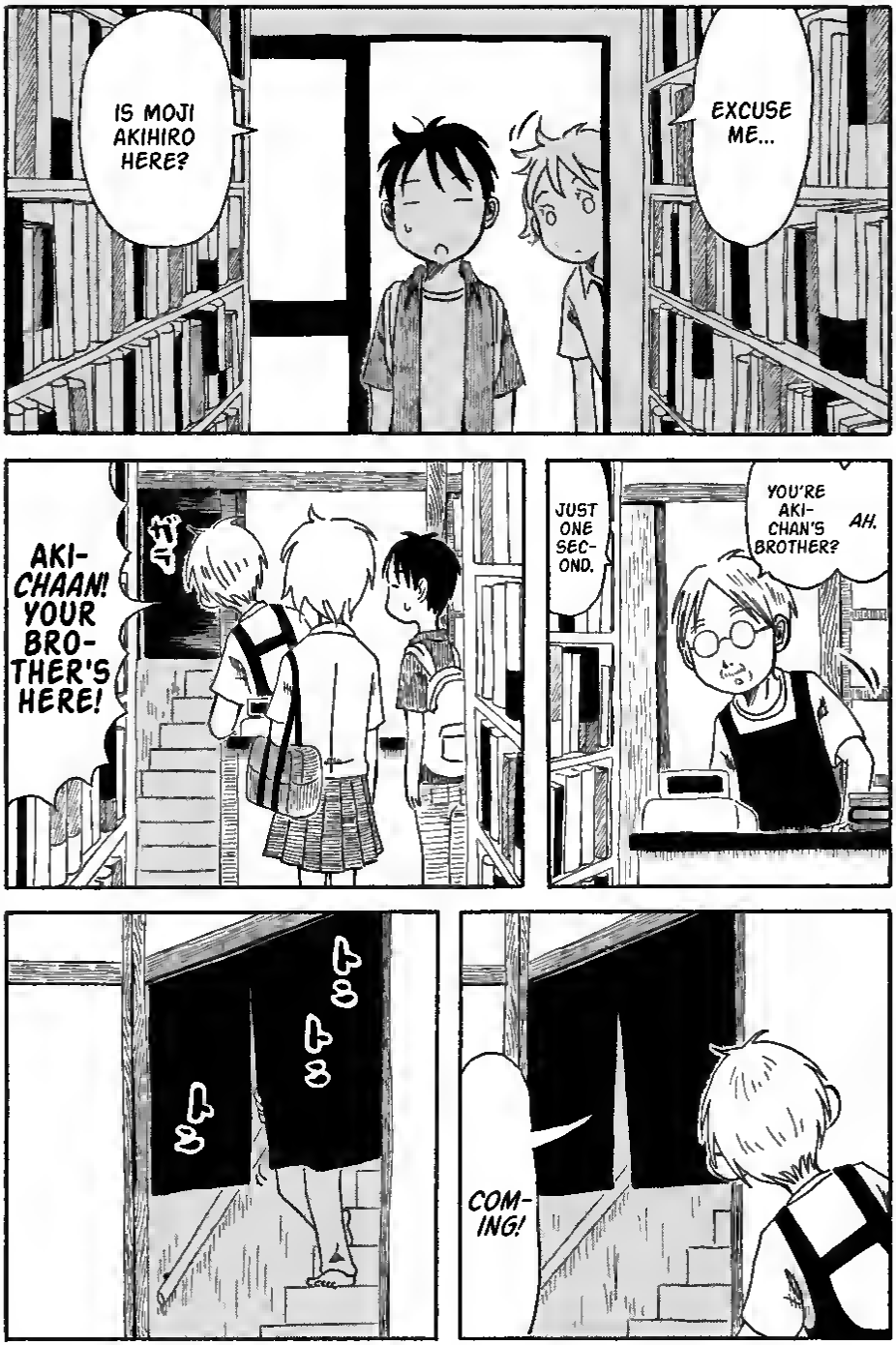

...
SO WHAT'S YOUR BROTHER LIKE?
ガタン ゴトン

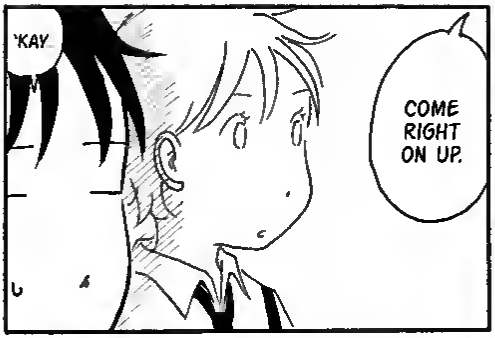

UM...
HOW DO I PUT THIS?
HE'S MY OLDER BROTHER, BUT HE WON'T SEEM LIKE A VERY BIG BROTHER-ISH SORT OF PERSON...
WHAT'S HE LIKE... HUH?

精肉
スタミナ王
西町商店街
西町通り
西町駅


Harimoto Used Books
カラ

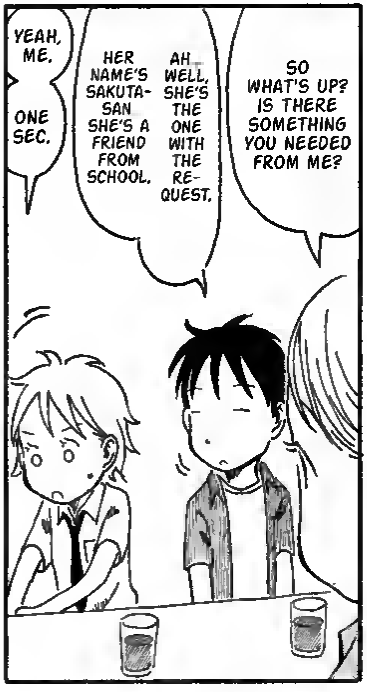

SUPPORT YOUR
LOCAL SHOPPING DISTRICT!

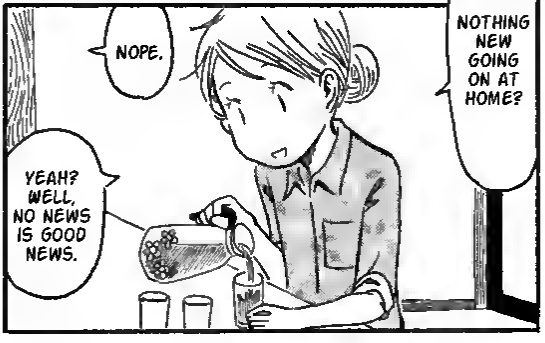

EXCUSE ME...
IS MOJI AKIHIRO HERE?
AH.
YOU'RE AKI-CHAN'S BROTHER?
JUST ONE SEC-OND.
AKI-CHAAN! YOUR BRO-THER'S HERE!
ガラ
COM-ING!
ドタドタドタ


'KAY.
COME RIGHT ON UP.

SHOU-CHAN,
LONG TIME NO SEE!

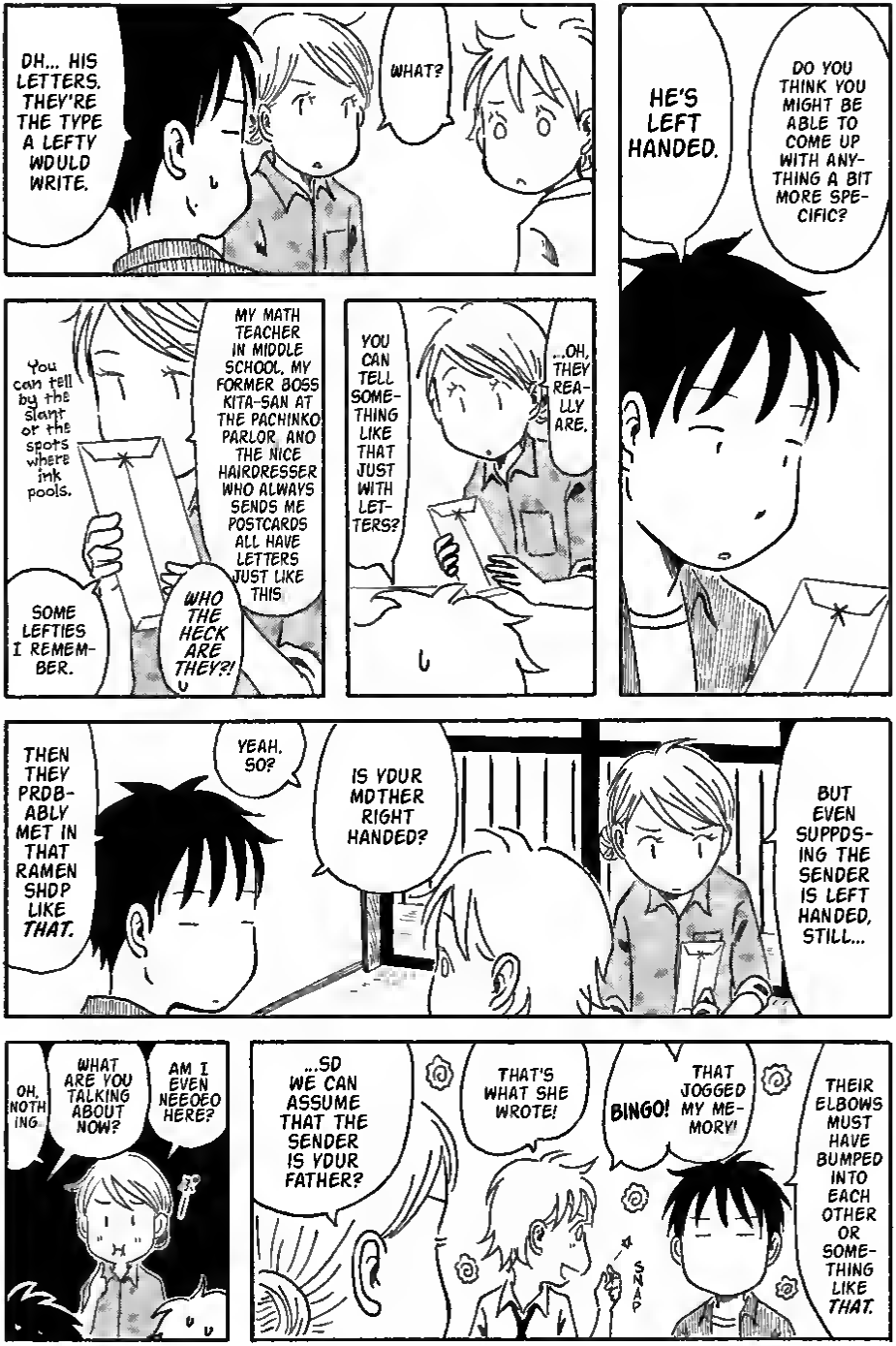
USED TO BE MY BRO-THER. A LONG, LONG TIME AGO.
...DIDN'T YOU SAY YOU HAD A BRO-THER?


YEAH, ME.
ONE SEC.
HER NAME'S SAKUTA-SAN SHE'S A FRIEND FROM SCHOOL.
AH, WELL, SHE'S THE ONE WITH THE RE-QUEST.
SO WHAT'S UP? IS THERE SOMETHING YOU NEEDED FROM ME?

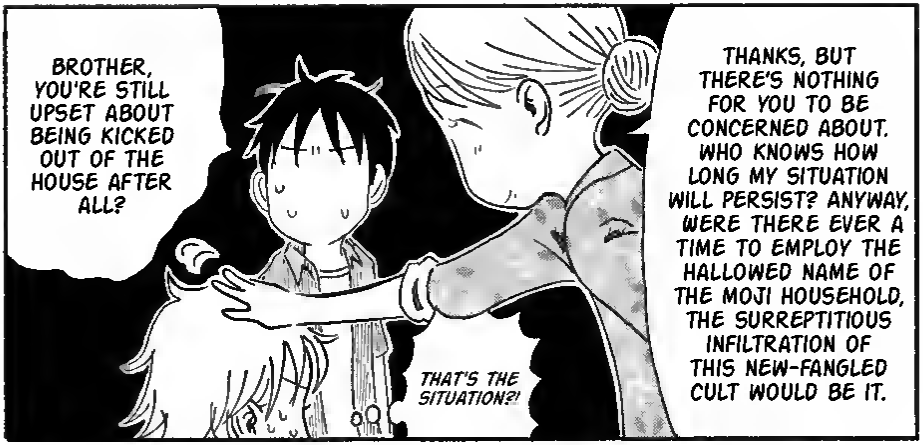

NOTHING NEW GOING ON AT HOME?
NOPE.
YEAH? WELL, NO NEWS IS GOOD NEWS.

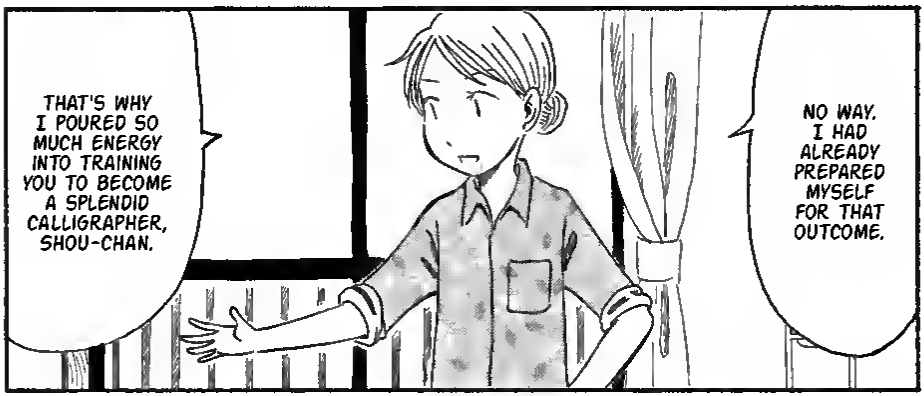
EH?!
EHHH?!
OH, WERE YOU TALKING TO ME?
OH!
WHILE KEEPING IT A SECRET FROM THE REST OF MY FAMILY!
I WANT YOU TO FIND HIM!
IT'S ABOUT MY DAD!
OH, I GUESS TRACKING OOWN A CAT'S KINOA DETECTIVE-ISH, RIGHT?
BUT THE JOBS I'VE HAO TILL NOW HAVE BEEN MORE ALONG THE LINES OF WRITING A MENU FOR A RAMEN SHOP ANO PAINTING A BANNER FOR THE SHOPPING OISTRICT...
Purrr Rrrr Rrrr Rrrr
...
INOEEO I AM.
WEREN'T YOU SUPPOSEO TO BE A OETECTIVE?
BUT IF THAT'S NOT ENOUGH, WOULO YOU EXTENO ME A LOAN OR...?
I'VE SAVEO UP ALL THE MONEY I GOT FOR NEW YEAR'S. I HAVE THIS MUCH.
HOW MUCH OO YOU THINK AN INVEST-IGATION MIGHT COST?
AH, WELL, FIRST,
SO WHAT'S UP?
BUT I'LL TAKE ANY JOB I CAN GET!
SOMEWHERE ALONG THE WAY, I KINOA FORGOT WHAT I REALLY SET OUT TO BE.

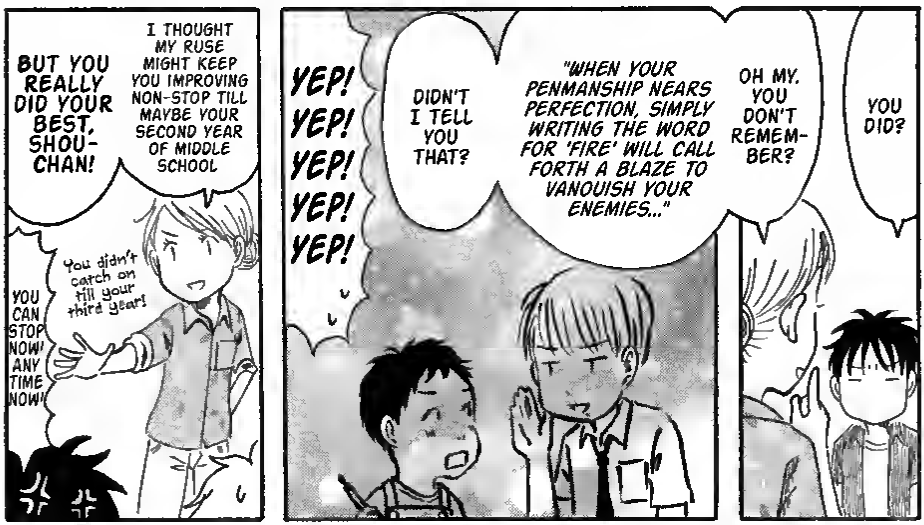
YOU'VE GOT IT ALL WRONG. I WAS REMEMBERING HOW I STARTED SAVING FOR MY SURGERY WHEN I WAS IN MIDDLE SCHOOL...
BROTHER.. YOU SHOULDN'T CRY WHEN LOOKING AT OTHER PEOPLE'S BANK BOOKS.
OKAY, I'M INTERESTED AND I'LL KEEP THE COST AS LOW AS I CAN.
SO, ANY HINTS?
AH, I DO HAVE THIS.
THE SENDER DIDN'T WRITE DOWN THEIR NAME, BUT IT WAS PROBABLY MY FATHER.
"PROBABLY," HUH?
ANYTHING ELSE?
OTHER THAN THAT, ALL I HAVE ARE A FEW SCRAPS OF MEMORY.
WHEN I WAS REALLY YOUNG, I ONCE VISITED MY MOTHER'S PARENTS' HOUSE AND SNUCK A PEEK AT HER DIARY...
ACCORDING TO THAT, SHE FIRST MET MY REAL FATHER AT A RAMEN SHOP.
..BUT THAT'S ALL I CAN REMEMBER..
HMM... MET AT A RAMEN SHOP, HUH?


DH... HIS LETTERS. THEY'RE THE TYPE A LEFTY WDULD WRITE.
WHAT?
HE'S LEFT HANDED.
DO YOU THINK YOU MIGHT BE ABLE TO COME UP WITH ANY-THING A BIT MORE SPE-CIFIC?
MY MATH TEACHER IN MIDDLE SCHOOL, MY FORMER BOSS KITA-SAN AT THE PACHINKO PARLOR, AND THE NICE HAIRDRESSER WHO ALWAYS SENDS ME POSTCARDS ALL HAVE LETTERS JUST LIKE THIS
You can tell by the slant or the spots where ink pools.
SOME LEFTIES I REMEM-BER.
WHO THE HECK ARE THEY?!
YOU CAN TELL SOME-THING LIKE THAT JUST WITH LET-TERS?
..OH, THEY REA-LLY ARE.
THEN THEY PRDB-ABLY MET IN THAT RAMEN SHDP LIKE THAT.
YEAH, SO?
IS YDUR MDTHER RIGHT HANDED?
BUT EVEN SUPPDS-ING THE SENDER IS LEFT HANDED, STILL...
OH, NOTH ING.
WHAT ARE YOU TALKING ABOUT NOW?
AM I EVEN NEEDED HERE?
..SO WE CAN ASSUME THAT THE SENDER IS YDUR FATHER?
THAT'S WHAT SHE WROTE!
BINGO!
THAT JOGGED MY ME-MORY!
SNAP
THEIR ELBOWS MUST HAVE BUMPED INTO EACH OTHER OR SOME-THING LIKE THAT.

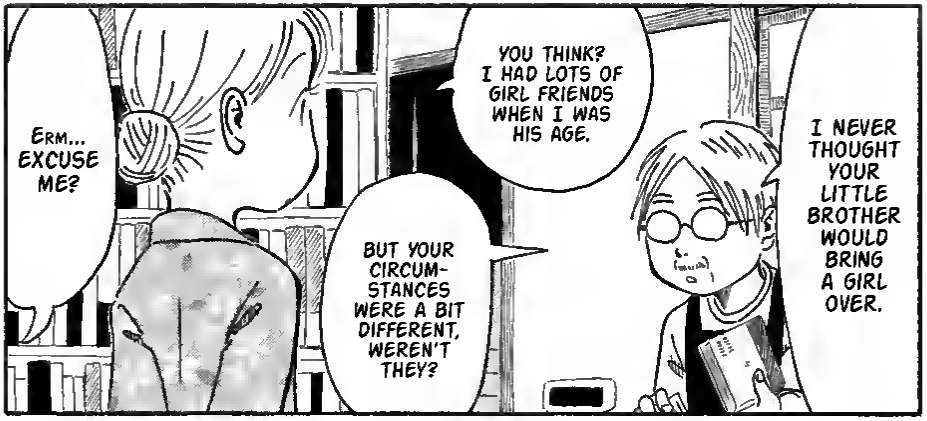
...WHY WOULD DO YOU EVEN HAVE THAT?
HER GRAND-FATHER'S BUSINESS CARD?
AND IF THEY DON'T LET ME IN, THEN IT'LL BE TIME TO PULL OUT ONE OF GRAMPS' BUSINESS CARDS.
LET'S SEE. FIRST THING TO DO IS TO VISIT THE CULT THIS TALISMAN CAME FROM AND SEE IF YOUR FATHER IS A MEMBER OR NOT.
YET?!
..YET.
PUT YOUR MIND AT EASE.
I HAVEN'T DONE ANYTHING TO SULLY HIS NAME ANY FURTHER.
Acti-vate!
DIY burglar power
I FIGURED THEY MIGHT JUST COME IN HANDY SOMEWHERE DOWN THE LINE.
WHEN I WAS DISOWNED AND HAD TO LEAVE HOME, I MAY HAVE PINCHED A FEW.
IF THIS STARTS TO LOOK DANGEROUS, PLEASE DON'T PUSH YOURSELF, OKAY?
...
I'D BE TOO SCARED TO.
SHOU-CHAN, DON'T TELL GRAMPS ABOUT THE BUSINESS CARDS.
UM...
THE MINUTE I CAME HOME A WOMAN!!
YUP!
Hardship's just a part of life, y'know?
But it's all good!
YOU WERE DISOWNED BY YOUR FAMILY?

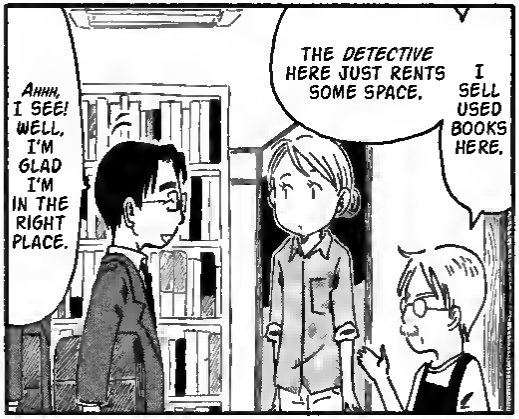

BROTHER, YOU'RE STILL UPSET ABOUT BEING KICKED OUT OF THE HOUSE AFTER ALL?
THANKS, BUT THERE'S NOTHING FOR YOU TO BE CONCERNED ABOUT. WHO KNOWS HOW LONG MY SITUATION WILL PERSIST? ANYWAY, WERE THERE EVER A TIME TO EMPLOY THE HALLOWED NAME OF THE MOJI HOUSEHOLD, THE SURREPTITIOUS INFILTRATION OF THIS NEW-FANGLED CULT WOULD BE IT.
THAT'S THE SITUATION?!

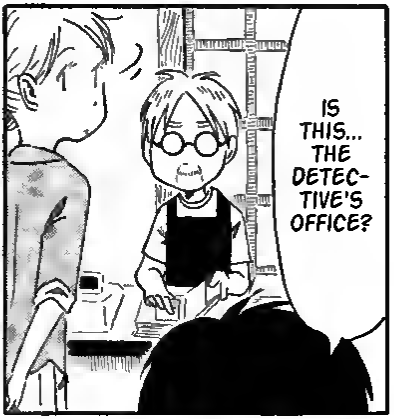

THAT'S WHY I POURED SO MUCH ENERGY INTO TRAINING YOU TO BECOME A SPLENDID CALLIGRAPHER, SHOU-CHAN.
NO WAY. I HAD ALREADY PREPARED MYSELF FOR THAT OUTCOME.


BUT YOU REALLY DID YOUR BEST, SHOU-CHAN!
I THOUGHT MY RUSE MIGHT KEEP YOU IMPROVING NON-STOP TILL MAYBE YOUR SECOND YEAR OF MIDDLE SCHOOL
You didn't catch on till your third year!
YOU CAN STOP NOW! ANY TIME NOW!
YEP! YEP! YEP! YEP! YEP!
DIDN'T I TELL YOU THAT?
"WHEN YOUR PENMANSHIP NEARS PERFECTION, SIMPLY WRITING THE WORD FOR 'FIRE' WILL CALL FORTH A BLAZE TO VANQUISH YOUR ENEMIES..."
OH MY. YOU DON'T REMEMBER?
YOU DID?

IF YOU MEAN HIS LAST NAME...
DO YOU KNOW YOUR FATHER'S NAME?
. ERM, SAKUTA-SAN?
BIRDS OF A FEATHER, YOU TWO.
I USED TO TRAIN IN A BAMBOO GROVE SO I COULD UNLEASH THE KAMEHAMEHA.
TH- THAT'S NOT A BIG DEAL, MOJI-KUN.
I was really serious about it.
OKAY, GREAT.
ANO I'LL BE SURE TO KEEP YOUR FAMILY OUT OF THIS.
OH,
SEE, SAKUTA IS MY NEW FATHER'S LAST NAME.
moto Used Books
THANK YOU VERY MUCH.
I'LL REACH OUT AGAIN IN A FEW DAYS.
WELL, THERE SHOULDN'T BE MORE THAN ONE PERSON IN THE CULT WITH A RARE LAST NAME LIKE THIS ONE.


ERM... EXCUSE ME?
BUT YOUR CIRCUM-STANCES WERE A BIT DIFFERENT, WEREN'T THEY?
YOU THINK? I HAD LOTS OF GIRL FRIENDS WHEN I WAS HIS AGE.
I NEVER THOUGHT YOUR LITTLE BROTHER WOULD BRING A GIRL OVER.

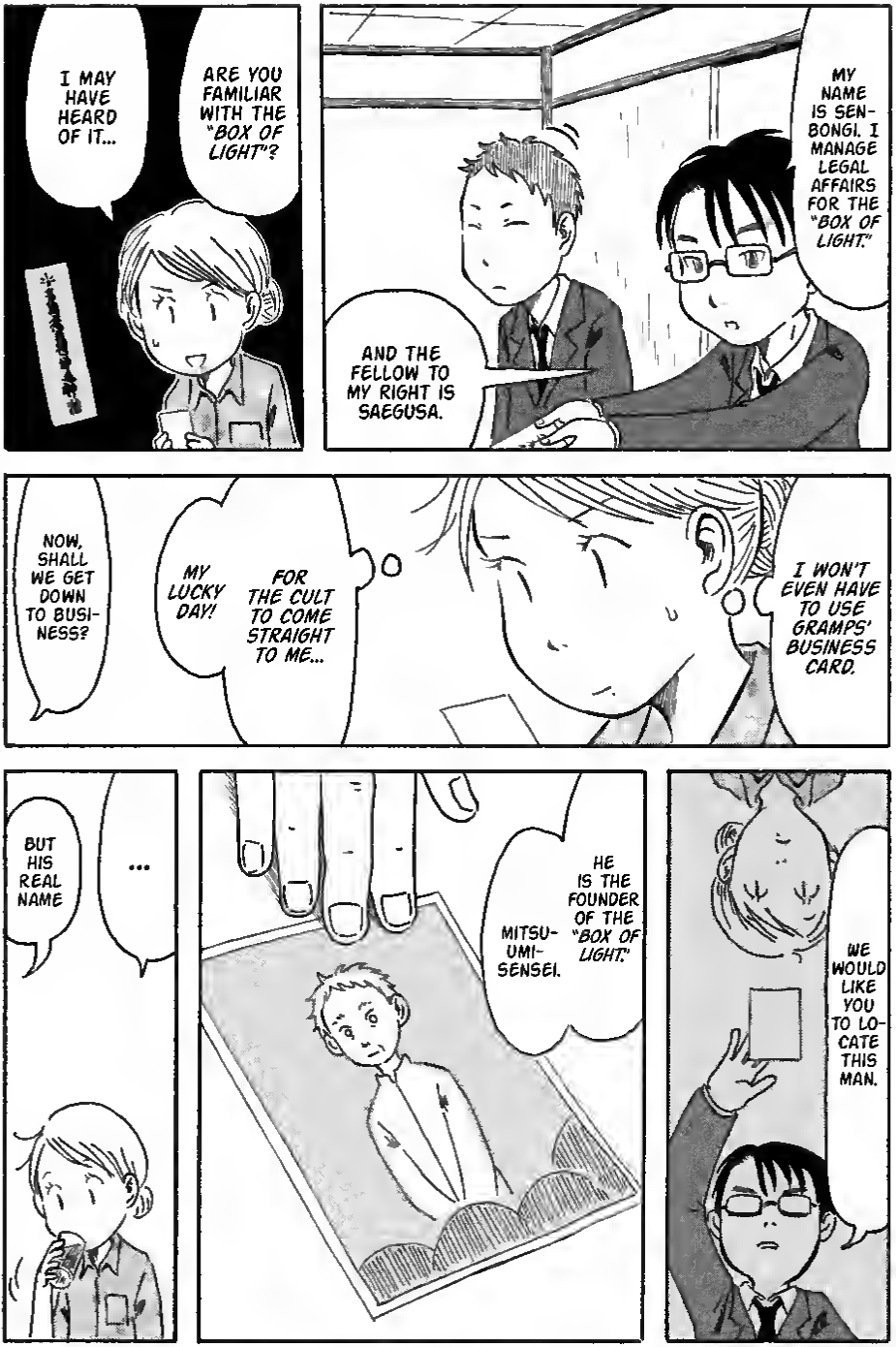

AHHH, I SEE! WELL, I'M GLAD I'M IN THE RIGHT PLACE.
THE DETECTIVE HERE JUST RENTS SOME SPACE.
I SELL USED BOOKS HERE.


IS THIS... THE DETEC-TIVE'S OFFICE?

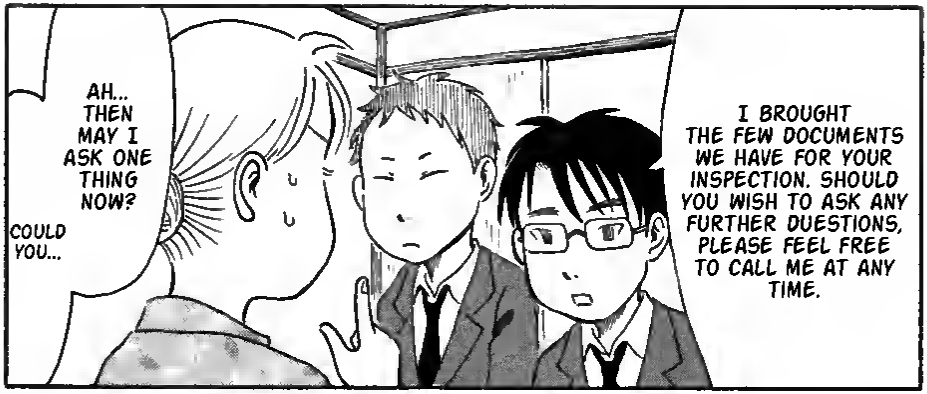
HOW THE HELL WOULD I KNOW?
ZEN-SAN, DO YOU THINK MY LUCK'S FINALLY TURNING? IN, LIKE, A HOSOKI KAZUKO SORTA WAY?

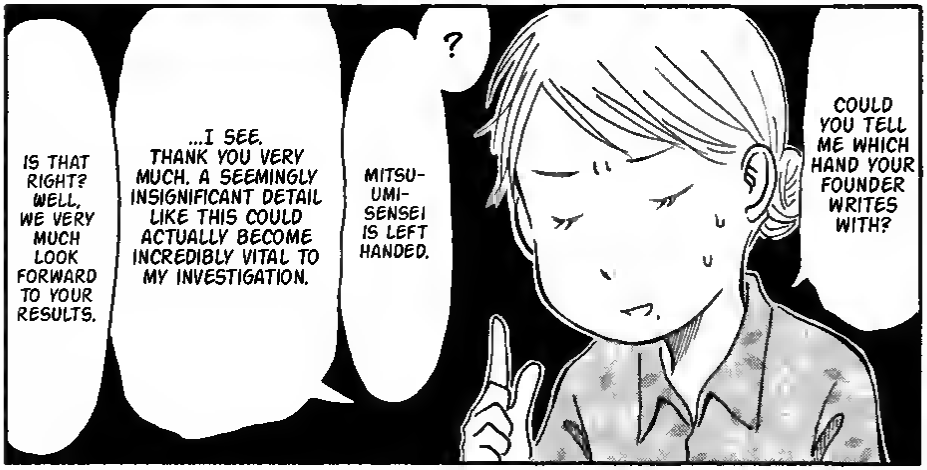
WE'D LIKE YOU TO FIND SOMEONE.

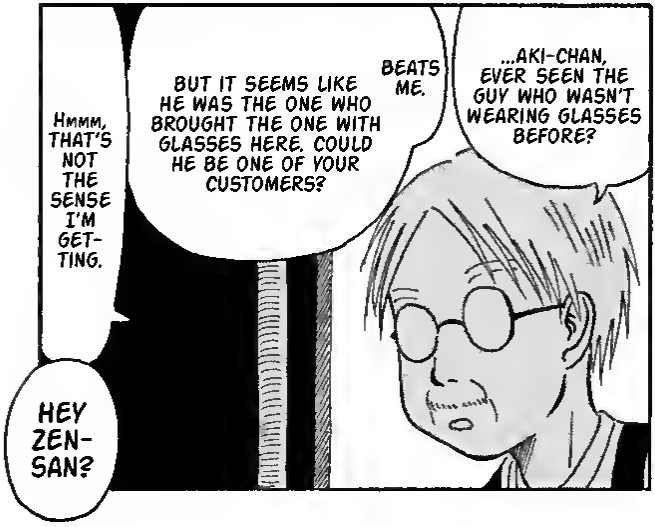
2
各停 杉宮 18:02
通過
改札 (北口)
SAKUTA-SAN, I'M SORRY.
FOR WHAT?
I DIDN'T REALIZE THAT MY BROTHER'S CAREER AS A DETECTIVE HAD ONLY GOTTEN THAT FAR.
I THINK IT'LL TURN OUT OKAY.
BUT IF HE CAN'T FIND YOUR FATHER, I'M SORRY.
WOW. YOU'RE A REAL WORRYWART, MOJI-KUN.
BASED ON WHAT SHE WAS SAYING TODAY, IT SEEMS LIKE EVERYTHING WILL WORK OUT.
YEAH, BUT...
I CAN'T SHAKE THIS REALLY BAD FEELING...
ザッ
ザッ

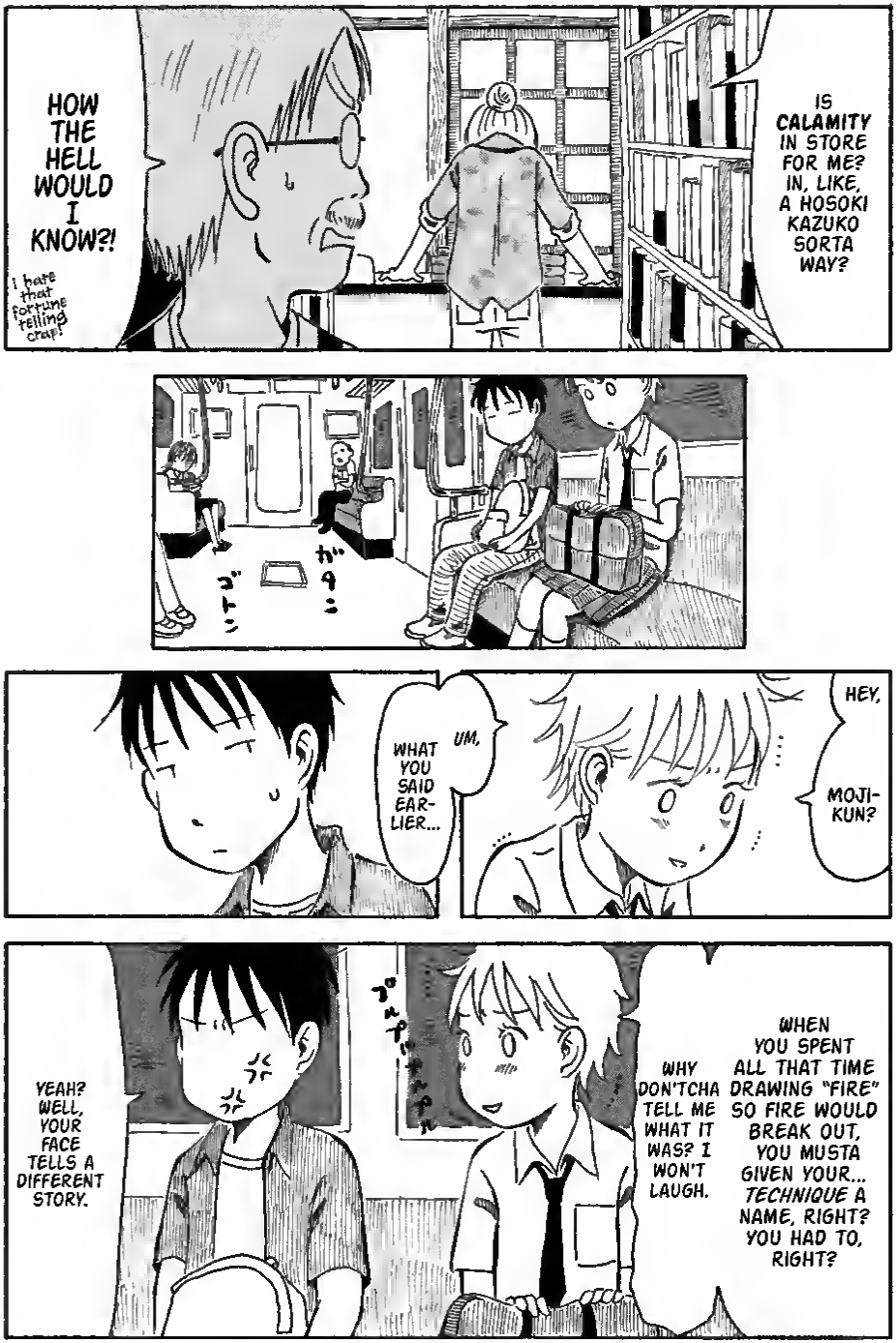

ARE YOU FAMILIAR WITH THE "BOX OF LIGHT"?
I MAY HAVE HEARD OF IT...
MY NAME IS SENBONGI. I MANAGE LEGAL AFFAIRS FOR THE "BOX OF LIGHT."
AND THE FELLOW TO MY RIGHT IS SAEGUSA.
I WON'T EVEN HAVE TO USE GRAMPS' BUSINESS CARD.
FOR THE CULT TO COME STRAIGHT TO ME...
MY LUCKY DAY!
NOW, SHALL WE GET DOWN TO BUSINESS?
WE WOULD LIKE YOU TO LOCATE THIS MAN.
HE IS THE FOUNDER OF THE "BOX OF LIGHT."
MITSUUMI-SENSEI.
...
BUT HIS REAL NAME

...ARE YOU ALL RIGHT?
...YEAH, I'M FINE! SOMETHING JUST WENT DOWN THE WRONG TUBE...
COUGH COUGH
PBBT
IS WARAGAI TOMO-MITSU.
YOU MAY FINO THIS OIFFICULT TO BELIEVE, BUT HE SEEMS TO HAVE OISAP-PEAREO WHILE IN POSSESSION OF MUCH OF THE GROUP'S MONEY.
HE TOOK IT AND RAN! WE'LL NEVER FORGIVE HIM!
.....
OH YEAH...
SAEGUSA-KUN, I NEVER SAID THAT WE WOULDN'T FORGIVE HIM. FIRST OF ALL, I WANT TO KNOW WHAT HAPPENED. IT'S ENTIRELY POSSIBLE THAT MITSUUMI-SENSEI HAD SOME KIND OF PLAN FOR THE MONEY. ISN'T THAT THE REASON WHY I HAD YOU BRING ME TO A PRIVATE INVESTIGATOR RATHER THAN BRING THE MATTER DIRECTLY TO THE POLICE?


I BROUGHT THE FEW DOCUMENTS WE HAVE FOR YOUR INSPECTION. SHOULD YOU WISH TO ASK ANY FURTHER QUESTIONS, PLEASE FEEL FREE TO CALL ME AT ANY TIME.
AH... THEN MAY I ASK ONE THING NOW?
COULD YOU...


COULD YOU TELL ME WHICH HAND YOUR FOUNDER WRITES WITH?
?
MITSU-UMI-SENSEI IS LEFT HANDED.
...I SEE. THANK YOU VERY MUCH. A SEEMINGLY INSIGNIFICANT DETAIL LIKE THIS COULD ACTUALLY BECOME INCREDIBLY VITAL TO MY INVESTIGATION.
IS THAT RIGHT? WELL, WE VERY MUCH LOOK FORWARD TO YOUR RESULTS.


...AKI-CHAN, EVER SEEN THE GUY WHO WASN'T WEARING GLASSES BEFORE?
BEATS ME.
BUT IT SEEMS LIKE HE WAS THE ONE WHO BROUGHT THE ONE WITH GLASSES HERE. COULD HE BE ONE OF YOUR CUSTOMERS?
HMMM, THAT'S NOT THE SENSE I'M GET-TING.
HEY ZEN-SAN?


IS CALAMITY IN STORE FOR ME? IN, LIKE, A HOSOKI KAZUKO SORTA WAY?
HOW THE HELL WOULD I KNOW?!
I hate that fortune telling crap!
ガタン ゴトン
HEY, MOJI-KUN?
UM, WHAT YOU SAID EAR-LIER...
WHEN YOU SPENT ALL THAT TIME DRAWING "FIRE" SO FIRE WOULD BREAK OUT, YOU MUSTA GIVEN YOUR... TECHNIQUE A NAME, RIGHT? YOU HAD TO, RIGHT?
WHY DON'TCHA TELL ME WHAT IT WAS? I WON'T LAUGH.
ブルブルブル
YEAH? WELL, YOUR FACE TELLS A DIFFERENT STORY.

TRANSLATION NOTES:

Chapter Title: The chapter title is actually a reference to the title of the book and film adaptation *The Detective Is in the Bar*. There's also a double reference here back to the previous chapter wherein Sakuta asked where she might find a detective. "In a bar?" (Page 35.)

Page 45: Moji's brother's first name, Akihiro, is actually a contraction of the first characters used in "Meiji" (明, here read as "Aki") and "Taisho," (大, here read as "Hiro") the names of two imperial reigns in Japan. Unlike Moji Shouhei's name, these use comparatively more unusual pronunciations of the characters and make the allusion less obvious.

Page 50: Several Japanese bloggers believe that the technique Aki is applying to her brother's face on this page is an allusion to the "Iron Claw" hold made famous by professional wrestler Fritz Von Erich.

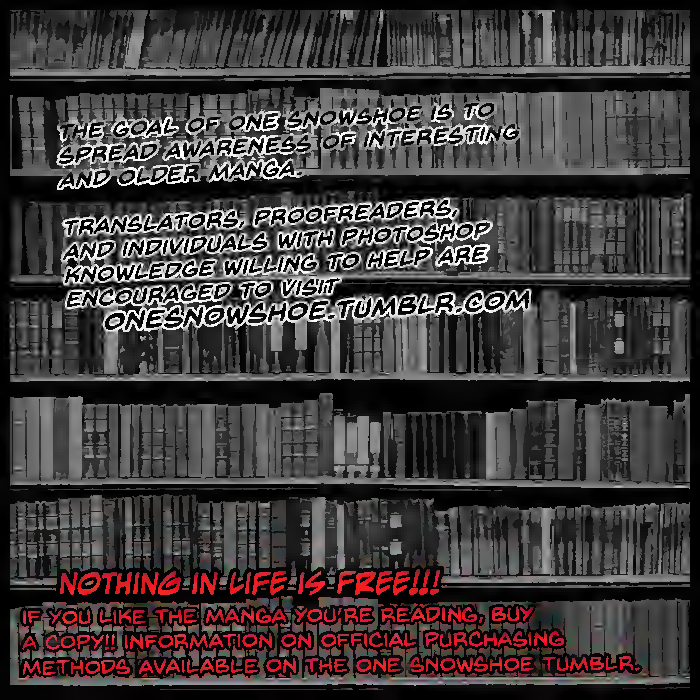
Page 51: The "I thought you might keep it up till maybe your second year of middle school" line has a literal temporal meaning, but it's also a reference to chuunibyou ("Middle school second year syndrome," 中二病), Japanese slang referring to the self-absorption and delusions of grandeur often wont to afflict people of that age.

Page 52: I hope many will find this allusion obvious, but "Kamehameha" is the energy projection technique used by Goku in *Dragonball* and *Dragonball Z*.

Page 53: Hosoki Kazuko is a Japanese fortune teller, author, and variety show celebrity.

Page 58: Note that Moji-kun's final sentence in this chapter has been reworked to give him a punchline that works in English.

Regarding Aki-chan and pronouns: Personal pronouns are a very, very important matter in identity construction in the West (in part because of how commonly we use them), but the Japanese language does routinely use such pronouns. Aki very much self-identifies as a woman, and characters like Sakuta and Zen-san view her as a woman first. They will routinely use "her", "she", and so forth. As Moji Shouhei continually refers to Aki has his older brother ("お兄さん") in the Japanese (for reasons he explains later in the narrative), he uses "him", "he", and so forth in English. For more on this matter, see the release post on the One Snowshoe Tumblr.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